



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 6, 2012

Contact: Lisa Richardson, 213-361-6980

Email: lrichardson@bos.lacounty.gov

or

Contact: Sharita Moon, 213-974-2222

Email: smoon@bos.lacounty.gov

Media Advisory

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, DCFS Director Philip L. Browning, and LAPD officials to hold Press Conference on Alesia Thomas and Child Safety.

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Children and Family Services Director Philip L. Browning, and Los Angeles police officials will hold a news conference to discuss child safety issues in light of the recent death of 35-year old Alesia Thomas, who died in custody of the LAPD.

The conference will take place at 10:30 a.m. Friday, September 7, at the DCFS Vermont Corridor. 8300 South Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90044.

On July 22, Thomas dropped off her two children at a police station, saying she felt her drug abuse made her an unfit parent. The night she did so, police came to her home to arrest her. A violent struggle ensued, and Thomas died shortly after, according to the LAPD.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas will emphasize there are two tragedies in the Thomas case: the death of Alesia Thomas and the potential that parents in distress may now be afraid to turn to authorities. A thorough investigation of the incident is vital to restore public

confidence. Supervisor Ridley-Thomas and director Browning seek to assure parents they must call for help if they feel they can not care for their children.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas will affirm that Thomas's children are now in a safe environment, as it is the duty of Los Angeles County to ensure the well-being of children when their parents can not care for them. Also, DCFS officials will discuss what resources are available to parents in distress.

**Who: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas,
Philip L. Browning, Director of the Los Angeles County
Department of Children and Family Services, and
LAPD officials**

What: Press Conference

Time: 10:30 a.m.

When: Friday, September 7, 2012

**Where: Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family
Services Vermont Corridor Office
8300 South Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90044.**

##